

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 220025Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2401

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0209

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN XF

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST

SYG HAS ASKED THAT FOLLOWING LETTER ON MIDDLE EAST  
PROBLEMS BE TRANSMITTED TO SECRETARY. TEXT  
OF LETTER, DATED JAN 21 AND RECEIVED IN USUN AT 8 P.M.  
FOLLOWS:

QTE: DEAR MR. SECRETARY OF STATE,

MAY I AGAIN CONGRATULATE YOU PERSONALLY ON YOUR REMARKABLE  
ACHIEVEMENT IN SECURITY THE CONCURRENCE OF BOTH PARTIES TO  
THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. THIS AGREEMENT REPRESENTS ANOTHER  
VITAL STEP FORWARD IN THE RESOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST  
CRISIS AND WILL, I AM SURE, RESULT IN A A FAR MORE STABLE  
SITUATION ON THE LINE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. THIS IN ITS  
TURN SHOULD PROVIDE A MUCH BETTER BASIS FOR FURTHER PROGRESS  
TOWARDS A LASTING SETTLEMENT. IT WILL ALSO ENABLE UNEF TO  
BE DEPLOYED WITH FULL EFFECITVENESS.

THERE ARE TWO MATTERS IN CONNEXION WITH THE DISENGAGEMENT  
AGREEMENT ON WHICH I SHOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR COMMENTS  
AND CLARIFICATION. THE FIRST RELATES TO THE COMPOSITION OF UNEF,  
WHICH WAS AGREED UPON BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL. AS YOU KNOW,  
THERE ARE CONTINGENTS FROM FIVE COUNTRIES, NAMELY GHANA,  
INDONESIA, KENYA, POLAND AND SENEGAL, WHICH DO NOT AT  
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PRESENT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. IT HAS BEEN THE  
POSITION OF ISAREL UNTIL NOW THAT IT WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE  
OPERATION OR DEPLOYMENT OF ANY OF THESE CONTINGENTS IN AREAS  
CONTROLLED BY ISRAEL. ON THE OTHER HAND, MY REPORT ON  
THE SETTING-UP OF UNEF, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE SECURITY

COUNCIL, STATES CLEARLY THAT UNEF "MUST OPERATE WITH THE FULL CO-OPERATION OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED" AND THAT IT "MUST BE ABLE TO FUNCTION AS AN INTEGRATED AND EFFICIENT MILITARY UNIT".

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THESE TWO POSITIONS POSES A SERIOUS DILEMMA FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND FOR THE COMMANDER OF UNEF, ESPECIALLY IN RELATION TO THE POLISH CONTINGENT OF UNEF WHICH, IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT ITS LOGISTICAL AND ENGINEERING TASKS, MUST HAVE FULL FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT.

UP TO THE PRESENT TIME, ALTHOUGH THIS MATTER HAS BEEN RAISED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED AND ALSO BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S.S.R., THE QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE INVOLVED HAS NOT BEEN RAISED PUBLICLY EITHER IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OR ELSEWHERE. I FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT, WITH THE NEW DEPLOYMENT OF UNEF AS A RESULT OF THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, THE MATTER CANNOT BE LEFT UNDETERMINED FOR MUCH LONGER SINCE IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ACCEPT THAT CERTAIN CONTINGENTS OF THE FORCE HAVE AN INFERIOR STATUS TO OTHERS, AND, IN ANY CASE, THE EFFICIENCY OF THE FORCE DEMANDS FULL FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR ALL CONTINGENTS. I SHOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL TO HAVE YOUR VIEWS ON THIS MATTER AND YOUR ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WITHOUT A PUBLIC DEBATE, WHICH COULD ONLY HAVE DAMAGING EFFECTS ON THE MUCH IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE WHICH YOUR OWN EFFORTS HAVE ACHIEVED.

THERE IS A SECOND AND RELATED PROBLEM CONCERNING THE FUTURE USE OF THE MILITARY OBSERVERS OF UNTSO IN RELATION TO THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. UP TILL NOW THE MILITARY OBSERVERS HAVE PLAYED A VERY USEFUL ROLE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE LINE IN REPORTING, LIAISON AND SUPPLEMENTING THE WORK OF UNEF. I WOULD THINK THAT, UNDER THE NEW DISENGAGEMENT PLAN, THE OBSERVERS COULD CONTINUE TO PLAY A VERY USEFUL ROLE, ESPECIALLY FOR INSPECTING THE AREAS WHERE ARMAMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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FORCES ARE LIMITED AS PROVIDED FOR IN PARAGRAPH B, 3, 4 AND 5 OF THE AGREEMENT. THE REPORT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNEF STATES THAT "IN THE FULFILLMENT OF ITS TASKS, THE FORCE WILL HAVE THE CO-OPERATION OF THE MILITARY OBSERVERS OF UNTSO". ACCORDING TO PARAGRAPH B, 5, EXISTING PROCEDURES OF THE UNEF WILL BE CONTINUED. ON THE OTHER HAND, PARAGRAPH B, 2 OF THE AGREEMENT STATES THAT UNEF "WILL CONTINUE TO CONSIST OF UNITS FROM COUNTRIES WHICH ARE NOT PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL", AND UNTSO IS NOT MENTIONED IN THE AGREEMENT AT ALL.

AS YOU KNOW, UNTSO CONTAINS OBSERVERS FROM THREE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, NAMELY FRANCE, THE U.S.S.R. AND THE U.S. FRENCH AND U.S. OBSERVERS ARE

DEPLOYED ON BOTH SIDES IN THE EGYPT-ISRAEL SECTOR, AND SOVIET OBSERVERS AND THE MATCHING INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF U.S. OBSERVERS, WHICH WAS AGREED TO IN WASHINGTON, THE GOVT OF ISRAEL HAS CONSISTENTLY TAKEN THE POSITION THAT IT WILL ON NO ACCOUNT PERMIT SOVIET OBSERVERS TO OPERATE IN ISRAELI-OCCUPIED TERRITORY OR TO ENTER THE TERRITORY OF ISRAEL ITSELF. THIS PROHIBITION INCLUDES THE HEADQUARTERS OF UNTSO AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE IN JERUSALEM, WHICH IS IN ISRAELI-OCCUPIED TERRITORY.

I SHOULD AGAIN BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR ANY CLARIFICATION WHICH YOU CAN GIVE ON THIS MATTER IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR RECENT NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS ANOTHER QUESTION WHICH WILL INEVITABLY BE RAISED BY THE VARIOUS PARTIES CONCERNED IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND I WOULD HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO SETTLE IT ALSO BEFORE IT GIVES RISE TO AN ACRIMONIOUS PUBLIC DEBATE. WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS,

YOURS SINCERELY,  
KURT WALDHEIM  
BENNETT

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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